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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/582,783	06/13/2006	Koji Moriyama	291921US0PCT	5030
22850 7590 06/24/2010 OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND MAIER & NEUSTADT, L.L.P. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314				
EXAMINER HAUTH, GALEN H				
ART UNIT 1791		PAPER NUMBER		
NOTIFICATION DATE 06/24/2010		DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

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Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/582,783

Applicant(s)

MORIYAMA ET AL.

Examiner

GALEN HAUTH

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 April 2010.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 8 and 9 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 8-9 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 04/30/2010 has been entered.

Response to Amendment

2. Acknowledgment is made to applicant's amendment of claim 8, and the cancellation of claim 12. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chu (PN 4877840) in view of Miller et al. (PN 6469188).

a. With regards to claim 8, Chu teaches a method for granulating polyolefins (abstract) in which a resin composition comprising a flexible polyolefin resin of homopolymers of propylene (col 2 ln 18-32) are melted in an extruder (col 4 ln 5-8) and then are melt kneaded while cooling the resin to a temperature of the melting point of the resin or less (abstract). Chu does not teach that the polymerization is carried out with a metallocene catalyst or the claimed properties and composition of the polyolefin.

b. Miller teaches a polyolefin system producing elastomeric polypropylene (abstract) which is useful for its utility and properties of recyclability, chemical resistivity, thermal stability, electrical conductivity, optical transparency, and processability (col 9 ln 47-51). The elastomeric polyolefin produced by Miller is attainable from propylene (abstract) with a metallocene (abstract). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use the polyolefin of Miller in the polyolefin process of Chu for the reasons stated prior including increased processability. Miller teaches that the elastomeric polypropylene produced (Example 48 col 43-44 displayed in Table 5 entry 9) has a polypropylene with a (mm) of 76.7% by mole by adding the percentage of all groups containing the mm dyad. Miller additionally

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teaches that the probability of mm dyads in the formed polymer ranges from 50-75% (col 46-47, variable $a = m$ dyad probability). Miller teaches that any melting temperature of the propylene may vary (col 5 In 50-57) and teaches melting points of 88, 115, 98, and 91 degrees Celsius in various embodiments (Table 1). With regards to the limitation of crystallization time, the flexible polyolefin of Miller is the same polyolefin (propylene) prepared from the same catalyst type with similar melting temperatures and tacticity, the material would therefor inherently possess the claimed crystallization time.

NOTE: Where ... the claimed and prior art products are identical or substantially identical, or are produced by identical or substantially identical processes, the PTO can require an applicant to prove that the prior art products do not necessarily or inherently possess the characteristics of his claimed product. **Whether the rejection is based on "inherency" under 35 USC § 102, on prima facie obviousness" under 35 USC § 103, jointly or alternatively, the burden of proof is the same, and its fairness is evidenced by the PTO's inability to manufacture products or to obtain and compare prior art products."** In re Best, 562 F.2d 1252, 1255, 195 USPQ 430, 433-4 (CCPA 1977).

c. With regards to claim 9, Chu teaches that the extruder varies in temperature from 200 degrees Celsius in the first zone at the beginning of the extruder to 65 degrees Celsius in the cooling zone at the end of the extruder (col 6 In 17-18), but failed to positively teach a cooling rate of 5-300 °C/min. However, absent any showing of unexpected benefit, the cooling rate claimed by the applicant would have been obvious in the art as such is taken to be a **result effective variable**, and would have been routinely optimized by those versed in the art.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 8 and 9 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to GALEN HAUTH whose telephone number is (571)270-5516. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday 8:30am-5:00pm ET.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christina Johnson can be reached on (571)272-1176. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

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/GHH/

/Christina Johnson/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 1791